

Committee File

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CIA Watchdogs

Senator Richard Russell has invited three members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to participate in the closed hearings involving the Central Intelligence Agency. Last year Senator William Fulbright of that committee asked the Senate to give his group official representation on the CIA watchdog committee. He argued that the CIA was so mixed up in foreign policy that it was unwise for just members of the Armed Services and Appropriations committees to question its officials about its operations. The Senate sided with Russell, who wanted no "museling in," as he put it.

The CIA is certainly mixed up in foreign policy. The senators with prime responsibility in this area should know its secrets. Now they will. Some will object that Senator Russell's noblesse oblige is not the same thing as a Senate decision to bring the Foreign Relations Committee in officially, but the result is the same, and everybody ought to be happy.